

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN>](mailto:Washburn.Ben@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN)  
To:  
CC:  
Date: 5/5/2014 3:18:36 PM  
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 5/5/14

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## **OPA Daily Digest for 5/5/14**

### **Congressional Inquiries:**

**Sen. Claire McCaskill** (Mo.) – Letter – 5/2/14: Constituent concerns about the Strecker Forest/Bliss Ellisville site removal action. Due: 5/16/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

### **State Government Inquiries:**

**Legislative Liaison, Office of the Director** (Mo):4/28/14 Review of SB968. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

### **Press Inquiries:**

**KWQC-TV, Davenport, Iowa** – 4/25/15: Questions about water issues in Muscatine, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

**Des Moines Register** – Joel Aschbrenner – 5/2/14: Questions regarding Dico site in Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

**KSHB Channel 41, Kansas City** – Tim Hellhake – 5/5/14: Questions about the Beta Chem Lab removal activity in Lenexa, Kan. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**KOMU Channel 8, Columbia** – Brynne Whittaker – 5/5/14: Questions about the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

**KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis** – Grant Bissell – 5/5/14: Questions about the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

### **Environmental Stories:**

**KMOX Radio St. Louis - Learning More About Bridgeton Landfill Settlement** - 5/3/14 - Residents near the Bridgeton Landfill have until May 23rd to decide if they want to be part of a class action lawsuit settlement or opt out. More than sixty of them turned out, Saturday, at Spanish Village Park to hear from attorney Ted Gianaris of the Simmons law firm. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/05/03/learning-more-about-bridgeton-landfill-settlement/>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Editorial: The Bridgeton ball fields blues** - 5/3/14 - Like the Environmental Protection Agency, we're suspicious of the quality of testing by Bridgeton residents that led to the latest outcry. But fixing the immediate problem of assuring the community that its ball fields are safe is an easy and necessary step. Test the dirt. Make a show of it. Do what must be done. [http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/columns/the-platform/editorial-the-bridgeton-ball-fields-blues/article\\_a651a24d-7363-52bb-bb9d-](http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/columns/the-platform/editorial-the-bridgeton-ball-fields-blues/article_a651a24d-7363-52bb-bb9d-)

[74b9ab7ef5be.html](http://www.kansas.com/2014/05/04/3438516/kdhe-city-to-hook-up-west-wichita.html)

**Wichita Eagle - KDHE, city to hook up west Wichita homes to municipal water supply** - 5/4/14 - City water is on its way to a handful of homes in west Wichita affected by a plume of dry cleaning chemicals contaminating groundwater. Both city officials and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment say they hope to get service to the rest of private well users in the area as soon as possible. <http://www.kansas.com/2014/05/04/3438516/kdhe-city-to-hook-up-west-wichita.html>

**KMUW Radio Wichita, Kan. - Dangerous Chemical Invades West Wichita Drinking Water** - 5/3/14 - Residents of a West Wichita neighborhood learned in March that their private water wells had been contaminated with a chemical likely to cause major health defects. They've also learned that the contamination could be decades old. <http://kmuw.org/post/dangerous-chemical-invades-west-wichita-drinking-water>

**Wichita Eagle - Koch brothers decline invitation to debate climate change** - 5/2/14 - A group supporting the political views of retired billionaire investor Tom Steyer bought a full-page color advertisement Friday in The Wichita Eagle — the Koch brothers' hometown newspaper — inviting the brothers to a public debate on climate change. <http://www.kansas.com/2014/05/02/3435699/koch-brothers-decline-personal.html>

**KTIC Radio West Point, Neb. - Congressman Huelskamp of Kansas joins others wanting to ditch EPA water grab** - 5/1/14 - Thursday Congressman Tim Huelskamp (KS-01) joined 230 of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle in expressing great concern over a proposed rule from the Environmental Protection Agency. <http://kticradio.com/news/agricultural/index.php?more=962e6xaf>

**Feedstuffs - EPA urged to drop water rule** - 5/2/14 - An overwhelming 232 members of Congress from both sides of the aisle sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy and Secretary of the Army John McHugh, urging their agencies to withdraw a proposed navigable waters rule. <http://feedstuffs.com/story-epa-urged-drop-water-rule-45-112040>

**Des Moines Register - Erosion estimated to cost Iowa \$1 billion in yield** - 5/3/14 - Wind and rainstorms like those that pummeled most of Iowa last week help carry tons of rich, fertile topsoil from its farmland each year — and potentially cut \$1 billion in yield from the state's 88,000 farms, says an Iowa State University agronomy professor. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/05/03/erosion-estimated-cost-iowa-billion-yield/8682651/>  
NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

**Wichita Eagle - Kansas has vast untapped hydropower potential, federal study says** - 5/4/14 - The U.S. Department of Energy and its Oak Ridge National Laboratory released a report last week that includes an estimate that there are 2.5 gigawatts of potential electrical energy in Kansas' rivers, much of it from the Arkansas River. That's more than enough to power all of the homes in the state. <http://www.kansas.com/2014/05/04/3439132/kansas-has-vast-untapped-hydropower.html>

**Living On Earth (blog) - Ozone Pollution on the Rise** - 4/2/14 - The American Lung Association puts out an annual report on the state of air quality in the United States. <http://www.loe.org/shows/segments.html?programID=14-P13-00018&segmentID=3>

**Washington Post - Keystone pipeline issue looms as Senate takes up energy bill** - 5/4/14 - The impassioned debate over the Keystone XL pipeline could reach a tipping point this week on Capitol Hill, with this likely the last chance for the issue to be considered legislatively until after the November midterm elections. [http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/keystone-pipeline-issue-looms-as-senate-takes-up-energy-bill/2014/05/04/ac262964-d21a-11e3-a6b1-45c4dff85a6\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/keystone-pipeline-issue-looms-as-senate-takes-up-energy-bill/2014/05/04/ac262964-d21a-11e3-a6b1-45c4dff85a6_story.html)

**MIT Technology Review - Two Carbon-Trapping Plants Offer Hope of Cleaner Coal** - 5/5/14 - Two of the world's first coal-fired power plants with integrated carbon capture are nearing completion in Saskatchewan and Mississippi, providing a rare lift for a technology that has languished in recent years. <http://www.technologyreview.com/news/527036/two-carbon-trapping-plants-offer-hope-of-cleaner-coal/>

**Environmental Defense Fund (blog) - 'Feeding 9 billion' requires facing up to climate change** - 5/1/14 - National Geographic's May cover story, "Feeding 9 billion," offers valuable insights into how to feed a growing global population while reducing agriculture's environmental impacts. But it omits some key connections with a critical issue: climate change. <http://blogs.edf.org/climatetalks/2014/05/01/feeding-9-billion-requires-facing-up-to-climate-change/>

**Springfield News-Leader - Burton: Ensure well water safety with annual test** - 5/3/14 - Rural residents who get their water from private wells need to take steps to make sure their water supply is safe, said Bob Schultheis, a natural resources engineering specialist with University of Missouri Extension. <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2014/05/03/burton-ensure-water-safety-annual-test/8669949/>

**Gristmill (blog) - Pipeline builder says oil spills can be good for the economy** - 5/4/14 - The company acknowledges, there's always the chance of a "large pipeline spill." But it says the "probability" of such an accident is "low." And anyway, if a spill does happen, it could be an economic boon. <http://grist.org/news/pipeline-builder-says-oil-spills-can-be-good-for-the-economy/>

**Climate Central - Dam It: Feds Say U.S. Can Double Hydropower** - 5/2/14 - A DOE study suggests America's rivers are troves of vast untapped hydropower potential and developing many of them could help combat climate change. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/feds-study-doubling-u.s.-hydropower-to-combat-climate-change-17376>

**Biofuel Digest - EPA hasn't yet sent 2014 blending mandate to the White House** - 5/1/14 - In Washington, the EPA hasn't yet submitted the final rule for the 2014 RFS mandate to the White House, despite rumors to the contrary. <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2014/05/01/epa-hasnt-yet-sent-2014-blending-mandate-to-the-white-house/>

**GigaOm - This startup is using sound waves to help manage ground water** - 5/2/14 - Groundwater makes up a large source of the nation's drinking and irrigation water supply, but its fluctuating levels aren't usually well monitored or understood, making it a challenge to manage the resource well. A Wisconsin startup aims to change that. <http://gigaom.com/2014/05/02/this-startup-is-using-sound-waves-to-help-manage-ground-water/>

**Domestic Fuel - Ag Subcommittee Hears Pros and Cons of RFS** - 5/5/14 - The food versus fuel debate arose once again in front of Congress. At last week's U.S. House Ag Subcommittee hearing in Washington, D.C., opponents and proponents of the Renewable Fuels Standard presented their arguments on the RFS and its impact on the livestock industry. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/05/05/ag-subcommittee-hears-pros-and-cons-of-rfs/>

**Domestic Fuel - Six 'Grand Challenges' Face the United States** - 5/5/14 - There are six "grand challenges" facing the United States over the next decade according to a report from the national Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The challenges include sustainability, water, climate change, agriculture, energy and education. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/05/05/six-grand-challenges-face-the-united-states/>

**Environmental Working Group - Reworked Bill Would Still Lead To More Toxic Chemicals In Commerce** - 5/5/14 - A revised draft of legislation to update the failed federal law that regulates toxic chemicals, which was released by Republican Rep. John Shimkus of Illinois following stiff criticism of his initial proposal, makes only cosmetic changes to his first draft. <http://www.ewg.org/enviroblog/2014/05/reworked-bill-would-still-lead-more-toxic-chemicals-commerce>

**Brownfield Ag News - Proposed water rule under fire** - 5/5/14 - More than 230 members of the House of Representatives are calling on the Obama administration to withdraw its proposed rule to expand federal control under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Iowa secretary of agriculture Bill Northey agrees that the EPA's proposal goes far beyond the original intent of the Clean Water Act. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/05/05/proposed-water-rule-fire/>

**KSHB Ch. 41 - EPA seizes hazardous chemicals from Lenexa lab** - 5/5/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency started seizing hazardous chemicals Monday from an abandoned lab in Lenexa, Kan. Beta Chem had been using the 2,000 square-foot lab near 100th Street and Lackman Road in Lenexa, Kan., to turn radioactive Carbon-14 into pharmaceutical compounds for medical research. <http://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/epa-seizes-hazardous-chemicals-from-lenexa-lab>

**BNA - Bloomberg News - New lobbying push for Keystone pipeline project** - 5/5/14 - Television ads sponsored by the oil industry's main trade association are being broadcast in five states to pressure Democrats to back the Keystone XL pipeline, part of a flurry of last-minute lobbying before a Senate vote as soon as this week. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/05/05/5003896/new-lobbying-push-for-keystone.html>

**BNA - House Republicans Claim Most Lawmakers Oppose Proposed Water Jurisdiction Rule** - 5/2/14 - House lawmakers signed a letter to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy objecting to the proposed Clean Water Act rule that would clarify jurisdiction over the nation's waters and wetlands.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=45841430&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v2a1g6&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45841430&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v2a1g6&split=0)

**BNA - EPA Official Sees Pollution of Waterways Worsening With More Than a Third Affected** - 5/2/14 - More than a third of U.S. waterways are now polluted, and the situation is becoming worse, Nancy Stoner, acting assistant administrator at the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water, said May 1.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=45841423&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v1g8k2&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45841423&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v1g8k2&split=0)

**BNA - Wooing of Wavering Democratic Senators To Force Keystone Seen Falling Short** - 5/2/14 - Keystone XL supporters are falling short in their efforts to round up the Democratic votes in the Senate to bypass the White House and approve the Canada-to-U.S. oil pipeline. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=45841429&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v1z2w9&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45841429&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v1z2w9&split=0)

**BNA - Reid Files for Efficiency Bill Cloture, Paves Way for Senate Consideration** - 5/2/14 - Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) filed for cloture on an energy efficiency bill that could be a vehicle for amendments related to natural gas exports and other energy issues, paving the way for Senate consideration the week of May 5.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=45841442&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v3y5g1&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45841442&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v3y5g1&split=0)

**BNA - EIA Says Renewable Fuel Demand Drives Major Increase in Biodiesel Imports in 2013** - 5/2/14 - Imports of biodiesel and renewable diesel increased eight-fold between 2012 and 2013, the Energy Information Administration said in its Today in Energy report for May 2. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=45841435&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v3b0d6&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45841435&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v3b0d6&split=0)

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=45841431&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v2a5k0&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45841431&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v2a5k0&split=0)

**BNA - DOE Finalizes Efficiency Certification Rules For Makers of HVAC, Refrigeration Equipment** - 5/2/14 - The Energy Department has finalized rules for certifying that commercial heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, water heating and refrigeration equipment comply with energy efficiency requirements.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=45841431&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v2a5k0&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45841431&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v2a5k0&split=0)

**BNA - Agencies Granting Most Extension Requests For Mercury Rule Compliance, Survey Says** - 5/2/14 - A new survey of states shows that state and local air agencies have granted most requests for one-year extensions to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's mercury and air toxics standards.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=45841449&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v4f9e7&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=45841449&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e9v4f9e7&split=0)

**Inside EPA - Backing Environmentalists, Court Sets Argument In Farm Dust Appeal** - 5/2/14 - A federal appeals court will hear oral arguments over environmentalists' attempt to intervene in a closely watched case dealing with EPA's power to require Clean Water Act (CWA) permits for air emissions from livestock operations -- a signal that the judges are seriously considering environmentalists' arguments in the case. <http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-05/05/2014/backing-environmentalists-court-sets-argument-in-farm-dust-appeal/menu-id-127.html>

**Inside EPA - Study Questions Ethanol's Ozone Reduction Benefits** - 5/2/14 - Twitter Follow Clean Energy Report - 5/2/14 - A new study by university researchers raises questions over claims that ethanol can help cut ozone levels, finding instead that transportation fuels that include higher amounts of ethanol could lead to more ozone pollution when compared to vehicles that use primarily gasoline -- though local factors may have affected the findings. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201405022469642/Clean-Energy-Report-Blog/Clean-Energy-Wire/study-questions-ethanols-ozone-reduction-benefits/menu-id-204.html>

**Inside EPA - Critics Claim EPA Concedes Generator Air Rule Exemption Unnecessary** - 5/2/14 - "Clean" utilities that generate the bulk of their electricity from low-emitting sources are claiming that EPA in a recent legal brief concedes that an exemption it gave diesel generators from having to comply with an air toxics rule for up to 100 hours was unnecessary. <http://insideepa.com/201405022469598/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/critics-claim-epa-concedes-generator-air-rule-exemption-unnecessary/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Raises Doubts Over Fate Of CSAPR Policy Memo After High Court Win** - 5/2/14 - EPA is raising doubts over the fate of a policy memo it issued following the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruling that scrapped the agency's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. <http://insideepa.com/201405022469601/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-raises-doubts-over-fate-of-csapr-policy-memo-after-high-court-win/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Eyes Clean Energy To Protect Critical Infrastructure** - 5/2/14 - EPA is exploring the potential for promoting clean energy projects on contaminated sites near

critical infrastructure such as wastewater treatment plants. <http://insideepa.com/201405022469543/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-eyes-clean-energy-to-protect-critical-infrastructure/menu-id-97.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA, DOD Settle Appeal Of Stormwater Retention Permits, Averting Ruling** - 5/5/14 - EPA and the Department of Defense (DOD) have agreed on a plan to settle closely watched litigation over DOD's appeal of two novel stormwater permits, averting a ruling that could have set a new precedent on whether the agency can set strict stormwater retention mandates in permits for municipal storm sewers. <http://insideepa.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-05/05/2014/epa-dod-settle-appeal-of-stormwater-retention-permits-averting-ruling/menu-id-127.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Revises Coal Ash Rule Deadline Agreement** - 5/2/14 - EPA, environmentalists and industry have submitted for a federal judge's approval a revised consent decree that requires the agency to issue by mid-December a long-pending coal ash disposal rule. <http://insideepa.com/201405022469579/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-revises-coal-ash-rule-deadline-agreement/menu-id-97.html>

### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

**EPA Inspection Results in \$2 Million Upgrade to Conway, Kan., Natural Gas Liquids Storage Facility to Reduce Harmful Emissions** – 5/5/14 – Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

### **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**5/5-6/14** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**5/12/14** – Meet with Iowa Committee for Community Improvement (ICCI) Representatives, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

**5/12-13/14** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**\*5/14/14** – State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**\*5/15/14** – Small Business Majority Roundtable, Waterloo, Iowa. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**5/15/14** – OARM Diversity Training, Regional Office. Contact: Greg Davis, 7208

**5/20-21/14** – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**\*6/4/14** – OECA Visit, Regional Office. Contact: Deandre Singletary, 7373

**6/5/14** – Incident Command System Training, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

**6/12/14** – Joint R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7373

**6/24-25/14** – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

**7/21-22/14** – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**DRA:**

**5/15/14** – OARM Diversity Training, Regional Office. Contact: Greg Davis, 7208

**5/20-21/14** – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**6/24-25/14** – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

**7/21-22/14** – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events**

**AWMD**

None

**CNSL**

None

**ECO/EJ**

None

**ENSV**

None

**PLMG**

None

**RA/OPA**

**9/29-30/14** - Healthy School Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and



Harry Diesel, 7382

**SUPR**

None

**WWPD**

**4/28-5/4/14** – Toxic Substances and Control Act Case Development to EPA Regions 1-4 Case Management Officers, Washington, DC. Contact: Maria Morey, 7079

**5/5-8/14** – Environmental Leaders Institute State / Tribal / EPA Training Workshop, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

**5/12/14** – Meet with ICCI Representatives, Des Moines, Iowa. Contacts: Dave Cozad, 7587, Karen Flournoy, 7782

**5/12-16/14** – National Total Maximum Daily Load/Measures and 303(d) Listing Conference, Denver, Co. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067, Debby White, 7886

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Des Moines Register

## Erosion estimated to cost Iowa \$1 billion in yield

Donnelle Eller, deller@dmreg.com 10:58 p.m. CDT May 3, 2014

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/05/03/erosion-estimated-cost-iowa-billion-yield/8682651/>

Wind and rainstorms like those that pummeled most of Iowa last week help carry tons of rich, fertile topsoil from its farmland each year — and potentially cut \$1 billion in yield from the state's 88,000 farms, says an Iowa State University agronomy professor.

Rick Cruse is working to find a better way to measure erosion and its financial impact, building on a report released three years ago that sounded an alarm on the severity of Iowa's soil erosion. It says parts of Iowa are losing up to 12 times more soil than the government estimates.

Iowa's rich topsoil provides the foundation for the state's farming industry — businesses that range from corn and soybean growers to ag equipment and seed manufacturing giants like Deere & Co. and DuPont Pioneer. Agriculture and related businesses provide about one-quarter of Iowa's \$152.4 billion gross domestic product.

The new model Cruse and his teams are developing is expected to paint an even grimmer picture of Iowa's soil erosion. More exact data could bolster arguments to expand federal conservation programs that pay for removing highly erodible land from production or for taking prevention steps like building grass buffer strips along streams.

"With the new model, we're likely to have a more disturbing picture of how badly damaged some of the most vulnerable fields are," said Craig Cox, a senior vice president at the Environmental Working Group, which released the 2011 report. It was based on data from ISU's Iowa Daily Erosion Project, which Cruse leads.

It showed some of the most severe erosion is occurring in the western and southeastern parts of the state.

"There's no reason to believe things have gotten dramatically better in the past few years, in terms of how well cared for Iowa's soil and water is," said Cox, who points to fewer

environmentally sensitive acres set aside in federal conservation programs. He blames the reduction — 445,474 acres from 2007 to 2013 — on farmers chasing higher corn and soybean prices.